

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3705

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith:

As you craft the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) please consider including the following priorities from the State of Oregon for the National Guard.

- **\$20M Redmond Readiness Center replacement (MILCON)**

The Center has been submitted through normal channels by the Oregon Adjutant General annually for the last four years as the Oregon Army National Guard's number one priority MILCON project.

The proposed Center is a 37,911 square feet National Guard Readiness Center of permanent construction located on purchased land in Redmond, Oregon. The project would be \$20M federal dollars matched by \$6.7M in anticipated state bond funds.

The Center would support the 1-82 Cavalry Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). This unit is currently operating from a 12,000 sq. ft., 68-year-old facility that provides only 32 percent of their required space. It is concerning that the current Installation Status Report (ISR) Mission rating for the existing facility is F4/Black ("Failing") (.47) and the Building Condition Index rating is Q3/Red ("Poor") (.61). This project would be constructed on a recently purchased 20-acre parcel near the Deschutes County Fairgrounds. I am told that the design and build contract can be executed in the year that funds are approved.

- **\$13M Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range**

Plans for a MPMG go back to the **FY10 FYDP** at the Navy Weapons System Training Facility Boardman—yet delays continue with the range postponed from FY25 to FY26. I am concerned that the schedule will slip well beyond FY26. Continued delays jeopardize the training and readiness of the Guard. **In Oregon, there is no range to train combat units on weapons systems bigger than a standard M-4 rifle.** It may surprise the Committee that we cannot train the Guard to live-fire any .50 caliber weapons, sniper rifles, squad automatic weapons (SAW), or any other crew-served weapons in Oregon. Additionally, ongoing delays can spiral into more delays if follow up environmental studies are required.

- **Gray Eagle UAV (ER-25M MDO version) for the 40th Infantry Division (ID)**

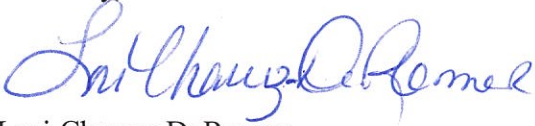
[\$350M for a four-platoon company; \$15M per aircraft. Oregon would obtain one platoon with up to four aircraft.]

The 40th ID is comprised of Army National Guard units from Oregon, Nevada, and California. The Active Duty Army operates the Gray Eagle in its divisions. However, the Army National Guard lacks this critical capability. The procurement of the Gray Eagle ensures Guard divisions have the same structure, depth, and capability as the Active Duty Army. The eight Army National Guard divisions make up 45 percent of the Army's divisional combat power, but without these critical assets, the 40th ID can neither deploy as a division nor maintain their relevancy for future combat. I am informed that the cost of each aircraft will cost \$15M.

The Army did not request Gray Eagle procurement funding in the FY24 budget. This leaves the Guard vulnerable and leaves the most cost-effective component of the Army force structure irrelevant for deployment consideration to meet the threats of our adversaries.

Thank you again for your consideration of these requests for the FY24 NDAA. My Deputy Chief of Staff, Marcus Brubaker, can discuss these requests, which I have based on continuing discussions with the Oregon National Guard.

Sincerely,



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress